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the oldest firms in the business. Other well known Chicago dealers are J. A. Pierce of room 107½, 201 Clark street, and S. C. Stevens, in the McCormick block on Dearborn street. The S. B. Bradt Company now has a monthly auction in Chicago, at one of the last of which a Confederate States stamp—a 10-cent green issued at Nashville—sold for \$49.50.

A. L. Holman, of Chicago, whose stamp collection was probably the best there, and valued at about \$20,000, sold it recently to a gentleman in Connecticut. W. H. Peeke also has an excellent collection. Among the best-known collectors in that city is Washington Hering of the *Staats Zeitung*.

George W. Perrigo is authority for the statement that undoubtedly the only genuine collection of the general issues of the United States stamps was that owned at one time by Fred Grant, son of General Grant, and prepared for and presented to the latter while serving as President, by the Post-office Department at Washington. The album containing these almost priceless stamps was elegantly bound in Russia leather, and upon the leaves of Bristol of the finest quality, printed in colors, were impressions of every stamp ever issued by the United States Government. The book contained some of the most beautiful designs imaginable, including full sets of the famous issues of 1869 and 1875, which for artistic beauty, have never been excelled by any other country in the world. The Grant Collection, which likewise embraced many rare issues of foreign governments, presented to General Grant during his terms as President, was placed in the hands of a friend of the family at Galena, Ill., for safe keeping at the time the Grants made their trip around the world.

It is said that the finest collection of United States and foreign stamps in this country is owned by John W. Scott, of New York City, the philatelist and numismatist, one of the originators of the business of collecting stamps and coins, and probably the most extensive dealer in both these commodities in the world. The estimated value of the Scott collection is placed at \$50,000, and includes the originals of almost every revenue and postage stamp ever issued.

John Borgeson is a young man of Chicago, who swindled stamp dealers out of several hundred dollars' worth of valuable stock. His crowning episode was to forge the name of the son of J. W. Carrington, Jr., of the Phoenix building, in one of his swindling feats. Mr. Carrington took up the matter and Postoffice-Inspector Fleming arrested Borgeson, finding him by means of a decoy letter. He was about 17 years of age, but very small. He claimed to be but 14 and was about to be let off with a light sentence, although he pleaded guilty. His father, however, told the truth about the boy's age; it was proven that this was only the last of many offenses, and he was sentenced by Judge Blodgett in October, 1890, to eighteen months in the penitentiary. The forgery charge was dropped, and he was tried only on the charge of using the mails for swindling purposes.

THE MONTREAL ART ASSOCIATION

THE Art Association of Montreal announces the opening of its annual Spring exhibition for the 18th of April next. Works for exhibition will be received up to April 9th. Through the liberality of several members of the Association, the Council has been enabled to offer as prizes for competition at this exhibition: For the best figure painting in oil, \$200, second best figure painting in oil, \$100, for the best sea or landscape painting in oil, \$200, second best sea or landscape painting in oil, \$100, for the best portrait in oil, \$100, for the best painting of still life in oil, \$100, for the best painting by an artist under thirty years of age, not a Royal Canadian Academician or Associate, \$100, second best painting by an artist under thirty years of age, not a Royal Canadian Academician or Associate, \$50, for the best painting in oil, by an artist who has been within three years, or is now a pupil of the Association, \$75, for the second best painting in oil, by an artist who has been within three years, or is now a pupil of the Association, \$50, for the best water color, \$100, second best water color, \$50. A special prize is also provided for the picture obtaining the greatest number of votes of visitors attending the exhibition, for which purpose each ticket of admission shall carry one vote, each single ticket of Association membership, two votes, and each family ticket, three votes, the prize amounting to \$200. All artists resident in Canada, or Canadian artists studying or residing abroad, may compete for these prizes. Detailed particulars may be obtained by addressing the Secretary of the Association, Mr. Robert Lindsay.

Professor Edmund B. Southwick, Entomologist of the Central and city parks of this city, has presented to the New York Historical Society two portraits in oil of Captain John Waddell and Anne Kirton, his wife. They were painted in New York prior to 1762, and are valuable as specimens of early American art, and as illustrating the costumes worn in this city during the colonial period.

The vast enlightenment and liberality of official intelligence of our Treasury Department once more dazzles us like the gleam of a brass button on a tide-waiter's coat-tail. Mr. Robert Garrett recently imported, for his art gallery in Baltimore, a painting by Rubens, "The Duchesse du Cruey," at a cost, in London, of \$15,329. An *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent was assessed upon it at the Custom House, against which Mr. Garrett protested on the ground that the painting was intended for his collection of antiques. The matter has just been disposed of, and it is decided that one picture is not a "collection," even if an antique. Mr. Garrett therefore pays about \$4,600 duties.

NOTES AND NOVELTIES

THE newspaper announcement that some collector out west has picked up several Ferara blades at a bargain, makes it worth while to call the attention of collectors of ancient arms to a fact of importance to them. This is that if Andrea Ferara forged all the blades he is credited with, he must have begun working back in the time of Tubal Cain and be still at it. The fact is that the great Venetian swordsmith was not a prolific producer at all. The Baron de Casson, who is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and has a fine collection of ancient armor and weapons, and probably knows more about these things than any other person in Europe or America, recently touched upon this subject in a paper read before the Royal Archaeological Institute in London. "It is certain," he said, "that common as blades bearing the signature Andrea Ferara are in this country, scarcely any of them are the work of Maestro de i Ferari in his workshop at Belluno, where he worked with his brother, Giovan Donato de i Ferari, some of whose blades, signed Zandona, still exist. Nearly all the blades commonly attributed to Andrea Ferara are manifestly of seventeenth century make, and Böheim states that Andrea was born in 1530 and died about 1583. It is possible that a few of the finest blades existing in Scotland and England bearing the name of Andrea Ferara may be his work; but as yet I know very few which I can positively attribute to the master, or even to the epoch when he lived, and it is curious that the Italian collections possess very few even bearing his name. What is certain is that for nearly fifty years after his death Solingen turned out hundreds of blades bearing his name for exportation to those countries where a true Ferara was held in high repute, just as it supplied false Toledo blades to those where a rapier was preferred to a broad sword."

One of the most useful and valuable libraries in the country is that of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It is the property of the commonwealth, but is free from partisan interference and has legislative aid. The library now numbers about 80,000 volumes and 60,000 pamphlets. The Society has probably the largest collection of Dutch books in the United States. These were comprised in the private library of a scholarly Amsterdam clergyman named Van der Meulen, who left them by will to his daughter, then living in Wisconsin. This lady having no place to store the books, presented them to the Society on condition that it pay the freight charges from Holland. This collection consists of 5,000 old and rare books, mostly in the Dutch language. Nearly half of them are richly bound in vellum, and many are profusely illustrated with seventeenth century copper-plate engravings. In the collection are numerous Bibles, atlases and charts, old editions of the classics, early lexicons and historical works.

A law is to be passed in Costa Rica making the sale to foreigners of Indian antiquities collected in the republic a crime punishable with severe penalties. A similar law is to be passed in Ecuador.

Last month witnessed the incorporation at Albany of the National Philatelic Society, with its principal office in New York, and with its objects social intercourse, mutual benefit, historical and literary research, the establishing of a library, to foster friendship between philatelists, and to maintain a collection of stamps, coins, etc. The Trustees for the first year are: Joseph Rechert, George Hencken, Louis S. Morton, Rudolph F. Albrecht, Charles W. Greoning, Frederick W. Hunter, Henry Collin, Louis Steps, Charles L. Moreau, Morris C. Berlepsch, Max Meyenberg, George H. Watson, George W. Crittenton, Rudolphus R. Bogert, and Albert E. Lawrence.

The Loan Exhibition at the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy last month brought out a strong representation of the private collectors of that city. Among the gentlemen who loaned pictures for the occasion were Messrs. Ralph H. Plumb, J. J. Albright, Charles F. Bingham, George B. Mathews, John C. Glenny, Willis O. Chapin and Edmund Hayes. Besides the pictures there was an interesting gathering of relics and curios, including tapestries belonging to Mr. McGraw, Mr. Cary and Mr. Albright, Mr. Cushing's Zuni collection, Mrs. T. R. Slicer's curios, Dr. Lobdell's relics from Nineveh, the Watson collection of relics from Thebes, Mrs. S. S. Spaulding's novel pitcher collection, Mrs. S. V. R. Watson's Swedish curios, Mr. James R. Smith's panel of carved ivory and other artistic objects.

Gen. Adrian R. Root has presented to the Buffalo Historical Society his entire collection of war relics and mementoes of the War of the Rebellion. The collection contains fifty-three different pieces, and includes battle flags, muskets, swords, bayonets, canteens, ammunition boxes, belts, sashes, epaulets, field-glasses and other relics, many of which were used by men who have distinguished themselves and whose names are known and honored in local and national circles. Gen. Root is at present preparing a detailed description and history of his treasures, which will be bound in book form and placed with the collection, as a catalogue and descriptive manual. Another valuable and recent addition to the Historical Society's collections is the Frederick H. Mixer collection of relics of the War of the Revolution, War of 1812 and of the Rebellion, and curios from foreign lands, numbering seventy pieces.

The combination sale of pictures by J. H. Dolph and Hamilton Hamilton, made by Ortgies & Co., on January 18 and 19, resulted in a total of a little over \$17,000 for over 150 works. The collection of J. G. Brown, N.A., sold at the same galleries, on January 26 and 27, for a total of nearly \$36,000. The attractive subjects of many of Mr. Brown's pictures made bidding active on the part of the print publishers. The highest price was paid for "A Sunbeam from the South," which was purchased by Mr. Isidor Straus for Macy & Co. Is the great Fourteenth street bazaar going to add an art annex to its already manifold attractions?

* * *

The collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, is to be located in a newer and more commodious building in that city. Besides its relics and curiosities this Society owns a collection of between 7,000 and 8,000 volumes of bound books, many of which are very rare and costly; 10,000 pamphlets, about 500 unbound magazines and over 1,000 bound volumes of different newspapers. One feature of the collection is a group of Artemus Ward relics, including his old editorial table and arm-chair, when he was yet only an editor on *The Plaindealer*.

* * *

The office of the Recorder of Deeds, in Philadelphia, is rich in historical autographs. The records contain over a million deeds, patents and other documents, with signatures of King Charles II., King James II., William Penn, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and other nobilities and famous gentlemen.

* * *

Francis W. Furman, of Providence, R. I., is dead at an advanced age. He died in poverty. He was a Pennsylvanian, and went to Providence in 1842, as a hotel-keeper. Furman was always a fancier of ancient coins and was well known in numismatic circles throughout this country and in Europe, and in the gathering of his collection paid some of the highest prices ever given in New England. In 1851 he became the possessor of an ancient coin through the generosity of a friend who presented it to him as a keepsake, little thinking that this coin would be the incentive to make Furman a numismatist, and would be the nucleus of one of the collections of America. It is stated that the deceased was at one time the possessor of coins whose face value was upward of \$10,000, while the premiums would have swelled the amount to nearly \$25,000. Yet he had been supporting himself as a cobbler for some time before he died.

According to *The Record*, of West Chester, Pa., Miss M. A. England, Secretary of the Chester County Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of West Chester, who is administratrix of the estate of her uncle, has come into her possession, as administratrix, of a large number of old coins of this and foreign countries. Many of the pieces are of the coinage of the eighteenth century, and the large copper pennies of the United States bear dates of 1796, and the early dates of this century.

* * *

Among collectors of Portland, Oregon, who contributed paintings to the recent Loan Exhibition for the benefit of the Woman's Exchange in that city were Henry Failing, W. S. Ladd, H. J. Corbett, Charles Kamm, C. E. Ladd, Miss M. E. Couch, Mrs. Trevett, E. S. Couse, Mrs. J. F. Watson, H. W. Corbett and C. E. S. Wood. The pictures loaned included examples of Corot, Rousseau, Daubigny, Mettling, Monticelli and George Inness.

* * *

Mr. J. R. Sangster, proprietor of the old Pulaski House at Savannah, Ga., was recently putting in a new oven. While the workmen were digging in the cellar for the brick foundation one of them turned up a shilling of the mint of 1776, with the imprint of George III. It is a handsome coin and manager Sangster now wears it for good luck on his watch chain.

* * *

Francis P. Harper, of 17 East Sixteenth street, this city, issues a valuable catalogue, of over a thousand numbers, of current and out-of-print books relating to the Rebellion and slavery. Probably no period of history has been so largely written about as the late Rebellion, but a large mass of the matter, owing to the circumstances under which it was and is being published, never appears in the regular channels of trade. Take for example the histories of volunteer regiments. These are frequently published in remote portions of the country and by persons entirely unacquainted with the placing of a book, so that they are never offered to the booksellers. The small edition, rarely more than five hundred copies, is rapidly taken up by the veterans and their survivors, and few are likely to come into the market again, as they will be handed down from generation to generation. No class of books, with the exception of family histories and genealogies, contains such a mass of personal matter and information, and their importance cannot be over-estimated. The difficulty of securing the early ones can only be appreciated by those who have tried to complete a set of any State. With the death of many of our distinguished generals during the last five

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years has come a great and growing interest all over the country in everything relating to the late struggle. While a few of the more far-sighted librarians have collected, as the opportunity offered, everything obtainable relating to the war, many of our public collections are still very weak in this department. The present collection is, I believe, the most important and comprehensive ever offered, either at public or private sale. The booksellers appear to have spared no pains to get every obtainable book bearing on the subject, and the collection includes three private libraries, one of which was collected during and immediately after the war. It is hardly probable, considering the increasing scarcity of these books, that anyone can ever again offer such an important lot.

* * *

The libraries of the New York clubs have been censused by *The Sunday News*. The Century Club has a library of 8,000 volumes, valued at over \$16,000. The Union League's library equals that of the Century in numbers. The library of the Players Club contains about 5,000 volumes, and that of the Manhattan Club about 2,000. The Union Club has an interesting library, particularly in reference to sporting topics. The most extensive club library in point of numbers is that of the Grolier, which has over 10,000 volumes, mostly bibliographies in all languages, books on the art of printing, histories of bookbinding, the lives of bookbinders, catalogues of noted libraries, histories of noted collectors and priced catalogues of the sales of famous libraries in England and America.

* * *

The New York *Recorder* claims to have discovered a young journalist of this city who is forming a collection of shrouds. They are not shrouds that

have been worn and that are interesting, therefore, from their associations, but spick-and-span new shrouds, fresh from the shelves of the dealers in fashionable funeral goods. There are among them black shrouds and white ones for grown persons; dainty white shrouds for children—some of them trimmed in light colors; lilac shrouds for super-aesthetic married ladies, in almost every variety and style of trimming. The walls of this young man's apartment are draped with these curious hangings, and some of his choicer treasures are preserved in drawers and glass cases. Asked how he came to devote himself to this odd field for collecting, the amateur in shrouds said that, in the first place, burial robes always had been fascinating to him, and, besides, he was a collector by nature and liked to work in some original direction. To quote his own words, he didn't want to collect "what every other fellow was collecting."

* * *

For proof of the depreciation which has overtaken the values of rare editions of ancient classics, attention is called to the recent sale of Dr. Luard's fine library, supposed to be one of the best of its kind in Cambridge. The prices were generally low. A copy of the Sheldon Press edition of Hesiod went for \$47, a similar copy having once fetched \$505.

* * *

Germany once bought a set of United States stamps and then reproduced them as curiosities. Across the face the word "false" was printed in small letters to show that they were not genuine. Our Government complained that the precaution taken was not sufficient, so they printed the word "facsimile," so every one would know at a glance they were not acceptable in the mails.

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